

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 12 and 23-26, all as shown below. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for high availability clustering, comprising:
 - a computer that allows a user or application to access a set of resources of various resource types, including application servers, said resources available at said computer or at another computer;
 - a cluster server that operates at said computer and that allows access to said set of resources;
 - a resource interface provided by said cluster server ~~[[and]]~~ that allows the cluster server to communicate with said set of resources ~~via a plurality of plugins into said resource interface;~~
 - a plurality of plugins that are plugged into the resource interface to provide a mapping between the system's resource management functions and any resource type-specific functionality, wherein each one of said plurality of plugins provides access to a pool of resources of a particular resource type, and wherein each pool of resources includes a plurality of resources of that particular type wherein each resource type is associated with a particular plugin, and wherein each resource of a particular type at said computer communicates with the cluster server via the particular plugin associated with that resource type;
 - wherein additional plugins may be included in the resource interface for other resource types; and~~[[,]]~~
 - wherein the system can be extended by adding additional computers with cluster servers and resource interfaces operating thereon.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each of said cluster servers includes a heartbeat interface that provides heartbeat information to other cluster servers at said other application servers.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is Java-based.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the system includes a JNDI interface that provides an interface between the cluster server and a JNDI-compliant database.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system includes a cluster administration utility for accessing and administering the cluster server using remote method invocation calls.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each resource has a resource type associated with it.
7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein resources are the object instances of their respective resource types.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein a resource is any of a computer, internet protocol address, disk, database, or file system or application.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the cluster server defines resource groups that includes clusters of resources.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plugins include a WebLogic plugin.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plugins include a Tuxedo plugin.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a high availability clustering framework system, comprising the steps of:

allowing a user or application to access, via a computer and a cluster server operating thereon, a set of resources of various resource types, including application servers, said resources being available at said computer or at another computer;

providing a resource interface at said cluster server that allows the cluster server to communicate with said set of resources via a plurality of plugins that are plugged into the resource interface to provide a mapping between the system's resource management functions and any resource type-specific functionality, wherein each one of said plurality of plugins provides access to a pool of resources of a particular resource type, and wherein each pool of resources includes a plurality of resources of that particular type into said resource interface, wherein each type of resource within said set of resources is associated with a particular plugin, and wherein each resource of a particular type communicates with the cluster server via the particular plugin associated with that resource type;

wherein additional plugins may be included in the resource interface for other resource types; and[[,]]

wherein the system can be extended by adding additional computers with cluster servers and resource interfaces operating thereon.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said cluster server includes a heartbeat interface provides heartbeat information to other cluster servers at said other application servers.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the system is Java-based.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the system includes a JNDI interface that provides an interface between the cluster server and a JNDI-compliant database.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the system includes a cluster administration utility for accessing and administering the cluster server using remote method invocation calls.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein each resources has a resource type associated with it.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein resources are the object instances of their respective resource types.
19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein a resource is any of a computer, ip address, disk, database, or file system or application.
20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the cluster server allows for clustering resources within a resource group.
21. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the plugins include a WebLogic plugin.
22. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the plugins include a Tuxedo plugin.
23. (Currently Amended) A system for providing resource groups in a cluster comprising:
 - a cluster server that provides access to resources at an application server, wherein said application server includes a plurality of resources and wherein each of said resources has a resource type associated with it;
 - a plurality of resource groups accessible via said cluster server, each of which resources group includes a number of associated resources; and[[.]]
 - a resource interface which allows the cluster server to talk to a plurality of plugins, wherein said plugins interface with a plurality of application servers to support a high availability framework between the cluster server and said application servers, and wherein the plugins provide a mapping between the system's resource management functions and any application-server type-specific functionality, wherein each one of said plurality of plugins provides access to a pool of application servers of a particular application server type.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for providing resource groups in a cluster comprising:
accessing a cluster server which includes a plurality of resources accessible thereupon,
including application servers, wherein each of said resources has a resource type associated with
it;

defining a plurality of resource groups accessible via said cluster server, each of which
resources group includes a number of associated resources; and[[,]]

using a resource interface to communicate with a plurality of plugins, which plugins in turn
interface with a plurality of other application servers to support a high availability framework between
the cluster server and said other application servers, wherein the plugins provide a mapping
between the system's resource management functions and any application-server type-specific
functionality, wherein each one of said plurality of plugins provides access to a pool of application
servers of a particular application server type.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for high availability clustering, comprising:
a plurality of computers that allow a user or application to access a set of application servers
or application server instances, said application servers being of various types and operating on said
plurality of computers;

a cluster server that operates on each of said computers and that allows access to the set
of application servers on that computer;

a resource interface provided by said cluster server on each computer that allows the cluster
server to communicate with the set of application servers on that computer via a plurality of plugins
into said resource interface, wherein the plugins provide a mapping between the system's resource
management functions and any application-server type-specific functionality, wherein each one of
said plurality of plugins provides access to a pool of application servers of a particular application
server type ~~wherein each type of application server is associated with a particular plugin, and
wherein each application server of a particular type communicates with the cluster server via the
particular plugin associated with that application server type;~~ and[[,]]

wherein additional plugins may be included in the resource interface for other application server types.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for high availability clustering, comprising:

providing a plurality of computers that allow a user or application to access a set of application servers or application server instances, said application servers being of various types and operating on said plurality of computers;

providing a cluster server that operates on each of said computers and that allows access to the set of application servers on that computer;

providing a resource interface ~~provided by~~ at said cluster server on each computer that allows the cluster server to communicate with the set of application servers on that computer via a plurality of plugins into said resource interface, wherein the plugins provide a mapping between the system's resource management functions and any application-server type-specific functionality, wherein each one of said plurality of plugins provides access to a pool of application servers of a particular application server type wherein each type of application server is associated with a particular plugin, and wherein each application server of a particular type communicates with the cluster server via the particular plugin associated with that application server type; and[[.]]

wherein additional plugins may be included in the resource interface for other application server types.